A sum of Rs. 41.09 crores was spent for developing container handling facilities at Madras, Cochin, Calcutta and Haldia ports during the Sixth Five year Plan. At Bombay port, a sum of Rs. 27.27 crores was spent upto the end of VI Plan. Provision of Rs. 59.92 crores has been made for development of container handling facilities at existing major container handling ports during the VII Plan. A sum of Rs. 2.26 crores has also been spent on the establishment of Inland Container Depots (ICDs) at Bangalore, New Delhi, Guntur, Gauhati, Anaparty and Coimbatore. An amount of Rs. 5.14 crores is proposed to be spent for further development of ICDs at Bangalore (Whitefield) and Delhi (Tughlakabad).

Container carrying vessels are calling at major ports in India, providing sailings from and to a large number of countries. Shipping Corporation of India has also established container services for Europe, USA-Atlantic ports, East Coast of Canada and Australia. SCI proposes development of container services for Black Sea ports in USSR and to Far East.

At present, 20 per cent of the total general cargo handled at ports in India is containerised.

A large number of agencies are involved in container operations. The main agencies involved in container operations are ports, shipping lines, Railways and Customs, coordination between these agencies being done by Ministry of Commerce.

Disposal of income tax and central excise cases

*136. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of appeal cases relating to income-tax and central excise which are pending more than a year and what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what measures are being taken by Government for the expeditious disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member has in mind the appeal cases pending in the Courts for more than one year.

The number of such appeals relating to income-tax and central excise are given below:

Income-Tax—	Supreme Court-	2248 cases
	High Courts-	22472 cases
Central Excise:—	Supreme Court-	2000 cases
	High Courts-	5600 cases

The main reasons for the pendency of these cases are legal and procedural delays.

(b) The income-tax and central excise officials have been instructed to pursue the cases vigorously in the courts.

Interim relief for working journalists

*137. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the grant of interim relief to working journalists and non-journalists;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if no decision has been taken so far, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Staff constituted by the Government of India in July, 1985 under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous